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LETTER DATED 18 JANUARY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ALBANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the letter of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania, H.E. Mr. Paskal Milo, addressed to You with reference to the last massacre of Recak, in Kosova. The original of this letter will be sent at the earliest convenience. I would appreciate if this letter would be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ambassador Agim NESHO
Permanent Representative

99-01034 (E) 180199

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Annex

Letter dated 16 January 1999 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania addressed to the Secretary-General

The last tragic event in Reçak of Kosova, the atrocious massacre against ethnic Albanian civilians, urges me to write to You and express the deepest concern of the Government of Albania.

In a moment when the International Community is looking and calling for an urgent and peaceful solution of the conflict in Kosova, when the international relief organisations are trying to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe, the last genocidal act proves that there is no willingness to cooperate from the Belgrade regime. This cruelty is only the latest one in the chain of Serb carnages. It cannot be an incident, but a well planned and executed policy of scorched land and ethnic cleansing.

The Reçak massacre constitutes at the same time a provocation to the international organisations and especially to the United Nations which are already involved in finding out a peaceful solution to the conflict. It also indicates that the Milosevic's regime has never been and will never be in favor of a peaceful solution.

The Albanian Government is of the opinion that the last event constitutes a grave act with serious consequences for the peace in the region, which is under a real threat in this respect, we urge Your immediate engagement in order to prevent the genocide of the Albanians in Kosova. The Albanian Government has already asked for an urgent meeting of the Security Council. We believe that the Serb provocation towards the willingness of the international community to restore peace and security in the region should be addressed in an appropriate way by the Security Council, and by using all the means at its disposal, including those which fall under the Chapter VII of the Charter.

We are confident that Your outstanding personality and the commitment of the United Nations to the principles of peace and security will be invaluable in bringing this conflict to an end.

(Signed) Paskal MILO